

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 28-31 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please AMEND claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19 and 24 as follows. All claims currently pending in this application have been reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) A projection exposure apparatus which uses a mask including plural columns of a mask pattern for repeated exposure to a member to form plural columns of an exposure pattern thereon, said apparatus comprising:

an illumination system which irradiates light to the mask;

a projection system which projects the light from the mask onto the member;

an exposure stage which moves the member;

a mask stage which moves the mask; and

a controller which controls light irradiation from the illumination system to the mask, driving of the exposure stage, and driving of the mask stage,

wherein the controller alternately performs the light irradiation and step driving of the exposure stage for moving the member by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns of the exposure pattern (~~where n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern~~), and,

wherein the controller performs step driving of the mask stage for moving the mask by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns of the mask pattern in association with step driving of the exposure stage in an early phase and a later phase of the repeated exposure, and

wherein n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern.

2. (Original) The projection exposure apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a light shielding member which shields light to prevent light projection onto the member; and

a light shielding member stage which moves the light shielding member, wherein the controller performs step driving of the light shielding member stage for moving the light shielding member by a movement amount corresponding to a pitch equal to n columns of the mask pattern in a light projection region on the member in association with step driving of the mask stage in the early phase and the later phase of the repeated exposure.

3. (Original) The projection exposure apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the mask includes plural columns of a first mask pattern for repeated exposure to the member to form plural columns of a discontinuous pattern thereon and a second mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a continuous pattern thereon.

4. (Original) The projection exposure apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the mask further includes a third mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a single pattern thereon.

5. (Original) The projection exposure apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the third mask pattern has a width which is a natural number multiple of a pitch of the columns of the first mask pattern.

6. (Currently Amended) A projection exposure apparatus which uses a mask including plural columns of a mask pattern for repeated exposure to a member to form plural columns of an exposure pattern thereon, said apparatus comprising:

an illumination system which irradiates light to the mask;

a projection system which projects the light from the illumination system onto the member;

an exposure stage which moves the member;

a light shielding member which shields light to prevent light projection onto the member from some of the plural columns of the mask pattern;

a light shielding member stage which moves the light shielding member;

and

a controller which controls light irradiation from the illumination system to the mask, driving of the exposure stage, and driving of the light shielding member stage,

wherein the controller alternately performs the light irradiation and step driving of the exposure stage for moving the member by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns of the exposure pattern (~~where n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern~~), and,

wherein the controller performs step driving of the light shielding member stage for moving the light shielding member by a movement amount corresponding to a pitch equal to n columns of the mask pattern in a light projection region on the member in association with step driving of the exposure stage in an early phase and a later phase of the repeated exposure, and

wherein n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern.

7. (Original) The projection exposure apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the mask includes plural columns of a first mask pattern for repeated exposure to the member

to form plural columns of a discontinuous pattern thereon and a second mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a continuous pattern thereon.

8. (Original) The projection exposure apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the mask further includes a third mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a single pattern thereon.

9. (Original) The projection exposure apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the third mask pattern has a width which is a natural number multiple of a pitch of the columns of the first mask pattern.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of projection exposure comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a mask including plural columns of a mask pattern for repeated exposure to a member to form columns of an exposure pattern thereon; and

a second step of alternately performing light projection from the mask onto the member through light irradiation to the mask and step movement of the member for moving the member by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns of the exposure pattern (~~where n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern~~),

wherein, at the second step, the mask is moved in a step manner by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns of the mask pattern in association with the step movement of the member in an early phase and a later phase of the repeated exposure, and

wherein n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern.

11. (Original) The method of projection exposure according to claim 10, wherein, at the second step, a light shielding region is formed to prevent light projection onto the member from some of the plural columns of the mask pattern, and the light shielding region is moved in a step manner by a movement amount corresponding to a pitch equal to n columns of the mask pattern in a light projection region on the member in association with step driving of the mask in the early phase and the later phase of the repeated exposure.

12. (Original) The method of projection exposure according to claim 10, wherein the mask includes plural columns of a first mask pattern for repeated exposure to the member to form plural columns of a discontinuous pattern thereon and a second mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a continuous pattern thereon.

13. (Original) The method of projection exposure according to claim 12, wherein the mask further includes a third mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a single pattern thereon.

14. (Original) The method of projection exposure according to claim 13, wherein the third mask pattern has a width which is a natural number multiple of a pitch of the columns of the first mask pattern.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of projection exposure comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a mask including plural columns of a mask pattern for repeated exposure to a member to form plural columns of an exposure pattern thereon; and

a second step of alternately performing light projection from the mask onto the member through light irradiation to the mask and step movement of the member for moving the member by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns of the exposure pattern (~~where n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern~~),

wherein, at the second step, a light shielding region is formed to prevent light projection onto the member from some of the plural columns of the mask pattern, and the light shielding region is moved in a step manner by a movement amount corresponding

to a pitch equal to n columns of the mask pattern in a light projection region on the member in association with step driving of the member in an early phase and a later phase of the repeated exposure, and

wherein n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern.

16. (Original) The method of projection exposure according to claim 15, wherein the mask includes plural columns of a first mask pattern for repeated exposure to the member to form plural columns of a discontinuous pattern thereon and a second mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a continuous pattern thereon.

17. (Original) The method of projection exposure according to claim 16, wherein the mask further includes a third mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a single pattern thereon.

18. (Original) The method of projection exposure according to claim 17, wherein the third mask pattern has a width which is a natural number multiple of a pitch of the columns of the first mask pattern.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an exposed member, comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a mask including plural columns of a mask pattern for repeated exposure to a member to form plural columns of an exposure pattern thereon; and

a second step of alternately performing light projection from the mask onto the member through light irradiation to the mask and step movement of the member for moving the member by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns of the exposure pattern (~~where n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern~~),

wherein, at the second step, the mask is moved in a step manner by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns of the mask pattern in association with the step movement of the member in an early phase and a later phase of the repeated exposure, and

wherein n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern.

20. (Original) The method of manufacturing an exposed member according to claim 19, wherein, at the second step, a light shielding region is formed to prevent light projection onto the member from some of the plural columns of the mask pattern, and the light shielding region is moved in a step manner by a movement amount corresponding to a pitch equal to n columns of the mask pattern in a light projection region on the member in

association with step driving of the mask in the early phase and the later phase of the repeated exposure.

21. (Original) The method of manufacturing an exposed member according to claim 19, wherein the mask includes plural columns of a first mask pattern for repeated exposure to the member to form plural columns of a discontinuous pattern thereon and a second mask pattern for exposing the member to form a continuous pattern thereon.

22. (Original) The method of manufacturing an exposed member according to claim 21, wherein the mask further includes a third mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a single pattern thereon.

23. (Original) The method of manufacturing an exposed member according to claim 22, wherein the third mask pattern has a width which is a natural number multiple of a pitch of the columns of the first mask pattern.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an exposed member, comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a mask including plural columns of a mask pattern for repeated exposure to a member to form plural columns of an exposure pattern thereon;
and

a second step of alternately performing light projection from the mask onto the member through light irradiation to the mask and step movement of the member for moving the member by a movement amount equal to n times a pitch of the columns of the exposure pattern (~~where n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern~~),

wherein, at the second step, a light shielding region is formed to prevent light projection onto the member from some of the plural columns of the mask pattern, and the light shielding region is moved in a step manner by a movement amount corresponding to a pitch equal to n columns of the mask pattern in a light projection region on the member in association with step driving of the member in an early phase and a later phase of the repeated exposure, and

wherein n is a natural number smaller than the number of the columns of the mask pattern.

25. (Original) The method of manufacturing an exposed member according to claim 24, wherein the mask includes plural columns of a first mask pattern for repeated exposure to the member to form plural columns of a discontinuous pattern thereon and a second mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a continuous pattern thereon.

26. (Original) The method of manufacturing an exposed member according to claim 25, wherein the mask further includes a third mask pattern for exposure to the member to form a single pattern thereon.

27. (Original) The method of manufacturing an exposed member according to claim 26, wherein the third mask pattern has a width which is a natural number multiple of a pitch of the columns of the first mask pattern.

28-31. (Canceled).